



Production Notes

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WWW.ARCTICDOGSMOVIE.COM



Arctic Dogs is an animated family film about a lively menagerie of animals living in the frozen tundra. The story centers on Swifty, an Arctic fox who stumbles upon a dark scheme to destroy the polar icecaps and bands together with his furry pals to save the day.

Swifty the Arctic Fox (Jeremy Renner), works in the mailroom of the Arctic Blast Delivery Service, but he has much bigger dreams. He yearns to become a Top Dog, the Arctic's star husky couriers. To prove he can do it, he commandeers one of the sleds and delivers a mysterious package to a secret location. Once there, he stumbles on a hidden fortress overseen by the nefarious Otto Von Walrus (John Cleese). The blubbery evil genius commands an army of oddly polite puffin henchmen. Swifty discovers Otto Von Walrus' villainous plan to drill beneath the snow-packed surface to unleash masses of ancient gas to melt the Arctic and become the world's supreme ruler. To stop this sinister scheme, Swifty enlists the help of his friends: PB (Alec Baldwin), a neurotic polar bear, Lemmy (James Franco), a scatterbrained albatross, Jade Fox (Heidi Klum), a brainy engineer, Leopold (Omar Sy) and Bertha (Heidi Klum), two conspiracy theorist otters and Magda (Anjelica Huston), his curmudgeonly boss.

The snowbound animated romp is chock-full of action and adventure, and can be appreciated on several levels.

"On the surface *Arctic Dogs* is about an Arctic Fox named Swifty who must team up with his friends to stop an evil walrus from melting the polar ice caps," director Aaron Woodley said. "Another level that really resonates is the love story between Swifty (Jeremy Renner) and Jade (Heidi Klum) that runs underneath the main narrative. It's like a classic romance: these 2 trying to come together and get over their own insecurities. Swifty grew up feeling invisible. That really speaks to me, and lot of people, on sort of a primal level. He wants to be a top dog. But, at the end of the day, chasing after fame and celebrity is an empty pursuit. This film sneaks in the message of accepting yourself for who you are and I think it's a really good one for kids to take away."

Producer Graham Moloy added another key takeaway: “We want people to be entertained and come away happy after watching the film. On top of that, we touch upon real-life issues pertaining to our environment, the melting of the polar ice caps. I hope that this film will make people stop and think a minute about that.”

DIGGING BENEATH THE SURFACE

Audiences will find themselves rooting for Swifty, the adorable Artic fox, who yearns to be a top dog, and then must save civilization from ultimate peril.

“The film centers around this fox named Swifty,” Moloy said. “He lives in a small remote town and his ambition is to become a Top Dog at the town’s courier service. Top Dogs are the vital line between the outer world and the town. Swifty—whose white coat blends in with his surroundings-- wants to be noticed and recognized. We follow him through his journey of thinking that being noticed and recognized is the most important thing. But, in reality, we want to show that if he’s true to himself he can achieve so much more in life. Along the way, he joins forces with his friends, PB the polar bear, Lemmy the albatross and Jade the fox, and the object of his affection. The movie also deals with climate change, which is one of the most important issues of our time.”

ENVIRONMENTAL THEMES

Some of the key players involved in *Arctic Dogs* were drawn to participate because of how climate change is incorporated into the adventure saga.

“One of the things that attracted me to the film was the fact that it deals with climate change,” said director Aaron Woodley. “It doesn’t hit the audience over the head with the issue, or get preachy about it. Climate change for me is one of the most important issues of our time and something I feel passionate about. I hadn’t actually seen an animated film deal with the issue. Just the fact that it’s incorporating it into the narrative of the movie, I found really exciting.”

Anjelica Huston, who plays the stern taskmaster Magda-- a Russian caribou-- found the film an ideal outlet for her activism.

“I think it’s a very pertinent piece,” said Huston. “I’m an environmentalist and global warming means a lot to me. I think it’s maybe the most important message of the 21st

Century. The message is not only accessible to children, but also for their parents. I think a movie like this is not only fun, but it's also educational and kids love to learn."

Heidi Klum, who voices two characters—Jade Fox and Bertha—concurs:

"We all know how badly the environment is suffering at the moment," Klum said. "If global warming continues, all the beautiful animals we're showing in this movie will most likely disappear. I think it's good for children to see and to understand the message."

ARCTIC APPEARANCE

An essential character in the movie is the uniquely snowy setting. The filmmakers were intent on capturing and conveying the magic of the vast Arctic atmosphere.

"The Arctic is a wonderful backdrop to make a movie in," Woodley said. "There's a sense of the frontier, the Arctic tundra, the epic quality is really visually stunning—we really tried to capture some of that beauty."

The town of Taigasville couldn't be more remote.

"It's a small town at the top of the world," said Woodley. "It really has a sort of classic fairy tale sense about it, almost like a Santa's village."

Given its distance and other-worldly ambience, Taigasville, population 300, has a storybook timelessness to it.

"It feels a bit lost in time," said Woodley. "So much of their technology is antiquated, sort of like they're out of step with the rest of the world. You don't know if this is 50 years ago or some time in the future even. I think that adds a real classic sensibility to the movie."

And key to establishing the Arctic atmosphere was capturing the essence of the very specific light in those northern reaches.

"What visually struck me about the Arctic is the quality of the light," said Woodley. "It feels like you're closer to the sun in a way. So we use really bright hot lights that sort of almost blow out areas of the frame to give you a sense that there's really nothing between you and the sun. We used a super reflective white surface that I found really fun to work with. It brings a sort of stark and interesting look to the movie. There are

these cold blue icy areas on the exteriors and warm interiors, a really nice dynamic range of looks to the film.”

BREAKING THE ICE

Producer Graham Moloy shepherded the story from its early inception to what audiences will ultimately see on the screen.

“The film started with a simple idea from creative director Matt Lyon,” Moloy said. “Hey, we have a polar bear in the Arctic—it was that simple—then it grew from there.”

It’s been a few years in the making, said producer Andrea Iervolino, co-founder of the multi-national AMBI Group, a consortium of vertically integrated film development, production, finance and distribution companies.

“The movie teaches that if you are yourself you can do amazing things,” Iervolino said. “And the environmental message will help kids understand how important it is to protect the planet.”

The voice cast is topnotch.

“It’s just a phenomenal cast,” Moloy said. “With talent of this caliber they come in ready to go. We couldn’t have asked for more.”

The voice actors came in to record first; their animated characters came to visual life later.

“For most of the time we recorded there wasn’t anything visual yet,” said Heidi Klum, who voices two characters in the movie. “So the director has to explain the scene and how your character is feeling, what your emotions are. You’re kind of speaking in the dark so you really need the director to help and guide you so you understand fully.”

Renner regarded voice acting as an exhilarating leap of faith.

“It’s kind of just free falling,” Renner said. “You’re blind and you just go for it. I would go in and work with Aaron, our director. I’d ask questions like ‘What’s the point to the scene’ and we’d work through it and talk about it and shift stuff. He allowed me just to riff and grab the energy of the character. We just kind of played and had a lot of fun.”

CRITTER CREW

Swiftly, the Arctic Fox (voiced by Jeremy Renner)

Swiftly is the story's protagonist. He feels invisible—and indeed being snowy white he blends in with the Arctic tundra. The story is about his journey to save the town, and in the process he discovers, and learns to value, his true self.

"He's bounding with youthful, optimistic energy," Woodley said. "If he's true to himself he can achieve so many things."

This was Renner's first foray into animation. And it offered him a chance to tap into his inner comic.

"He's a really funny actor and I don't think people realize that about him," Woodley said. "He's known as a dramatic actor, but he's very funny. He has an amazing charisma and also an amazing sense of humor."

Indeed, Renner ad-libbed quite a bit, said Woodley "and lifted it to a whole other level."

Renner's main motivation in taking on the project was to make a movie his daughter can watch. "The youngsters in my family haven't been able to watch most of my previous work," he said. "So I thought it would be a nice thing to do. And I thought it would be a great opportunity to explore voice acting. I got really into the technical side of the voice—where to put it and how to express. It was really fun and challenging just to hone in on the lines and the delivery of the lines.

Besides the fun and laughter, Renner appreciated the more serious message underlying his character's arc.

"He's an Arctic fox and he's genetically predisposed to be invisible," Renner said. "He's small in stature and none of these things help his confidence because all he wants is to be seen, and understood and witnessed. He wants to be recognized and he wants so badly to be a Top Dog. Top Dogs are like these big Husky dogs and he's just a tiny little Arctic fox that blends into his environment. So that's his struggle."

Swiftly learns to believe in himself—and have confidence. Renner would like kids to come out of the film knowing "You're exactly who you're meant to be and you're awesome."

Jade, the Red Fox (voiced by Heidi Klum)

Jade and Swifty have been buddies since childhood, but grown up Jade is highly educated, worldly and knowledgeable.

“Jade is an engineer and she’s very, very smart,” Klum said. “She makes amazing things and builds machines, but sells them to the wrong people. What I love about this movie is that there are real messages.”

Klum was originally hired for a smaller part, but she convinced the director and producers to give her a shot for the romantic lead.

“I was doing the voiceover for Bertha and I asked who had the lead part—Jade, the fox,” she said. “I was told they were still casting, so I asked if I could try for the part. I told them that I would change my voice, and would try to have more of an American accent. So they sent me the lines, I tried out for it, and I got the part!”

She had never had a starring role in an animated movie, so she was beyond excited when she got the role.

“I have four children and have done small parts in animated movies before, but I’d never gotten to do a really big part,” Klum said. “When you have children, the coolest thing to do as a mom is to voice an animated children’s movie. Because we can all go and watch the movie and Mama is talking, instead of someone else. So it’s super cool.”

She felt very fortunate to be part of such an illustrious cast.

“How lucky am I that I get to do this movie with these amazing people,” Klum marveled. “I was a little nervous, but I got the job done. I think everyone who voices a main character in this film has been nominated for an Academy Award®—except for me. How the heck does that happen? I have no idea, but I am so thankful to be a part of this amazing cast.”

Bertha, the Otter (voiced by Heidi Klum)

The West German-born model/actress uses a heavy German accent for Bertha, the conspiracy theorist otter. The role of Bertha is a small, but fun, one.

“Bertha is a sort of an erratic eccentric conspiracy theorist otter from Germany,” Woodley said.

Klum is the only actor with two roles in the film.

“Heidi was able to bridge that divide and have the range to do 2 roles, which is incredible,” said Woodley. “It’s hard to do. There’s one scene where she’s playing against herself and you really can’t tell it’s the same actor. She’s very talented and not just a pretty face.”

As for Klum, she’s looking forward to opening day: “I can’t wait for it to come out so I can go and watch the movie with my children.”

Magda, the Russian Caribou (voiced by Anjelica Huston)

Woodley was honored to work with the veteran actress. “She’s a legend and she’s brilliant,” Woodley said of Huston. Magda is a tough customer and a fun character to animate.

“With Magda, even when she’s not angry, she’s angry,” Woodley said. “She’s a taciturn caribou—very old school, she doesn’t like change. She’s a traditionalist and prefers things to stay the way they were in the old days, which is why she butts heads with Swifty who is all about change and youthfulness. So, the two of them come into quite a bit of conflict.

Huston’s take on her character is similar, leavened with a dose of affection.

“I like Magda very much,” Huston said. “She’s stern, she’s a Russian caribou and no-nonsense. She runs the service in the Arctic that provides food and water and comfort to the people. Of course, she has to rule with an iron fist in order to get the goods from point A to Point B.”

What the renowned dramatic actress relishes about doing animation—besides this film’s strong sense of social justice—lies in being able to experiment with different voices.

“You’re actually able to push farther than you are in visual arts because your voice can be very big,” Huston said. “Sometimes you find yourself going over the top in a way that’s pleasurable, but would be dangerous if it were visual.”

ABOUT THE CAST

Jeremy Renner (Swiftly)

In his early career, Renner devoted himself to theater, notably starring in and co-directing the acclaimed *Search and Destroy*. After several supporting roles in television movies and series, Renner drew the attention of critics with his gripping, complex portrayal of the infamous titular serial killer in 2002's *Dahmer*. His performance earned him an Independent Spirit Award nomination. In 2003 Renner took a break from smaller, indie films to star in his first commercially successful movie, *S.W.A.T.* His most famous role came in 2007 when he starred as Sergeant First Class William James in *The Hurt Locker*, for which he was nominated for an Academy Award. Renner has also starred in *The Town*, *Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol*, *The Avengers*, *The Bourne Legacy*, *The Immigrant*, *American Hustle*, *Kill the Messenger*, *Mission Impossible: Rogue Nation*, *Captain America: Civil War*, *Arrival*, *Wind River*, *The House*, *Tag* and *Avengers: Endgame*



As a young Arctic fox, Swiftly's parents taught him the arctic fox mantra: "Out of sight, you're all right," which is to say, as long as you're invisible (blend with your environment) you're safe. But for someone born with a reckless streak, safe is just... well... boring.

Swiftly took the opposite path, seeking attention and becoming obsessed with being a top dog — Taigasville's star courier huskies. Craving their fame, he feels slighted and ignored, never allowed to realize his full potential, until a "simple" delivery changes everything.

Heidi Klum (Jade and Bertha)

The German-born Klum began her career as a fashion model and swimsuit star after winning a modeling competition hosted by Petra. She signed with Metropolitan, the German modeling agency and modeled for a few years in Europe before moving to the United States to pursue modeling. Once in America, Klum began modeling with Victoria's Secret and earned the coveted cover of Sports Illustrated's annual Swimsuit Issue, achieving global top model status. Klum then set her sights on Hollywood. She has appeared on television in the U.S. and Germany and has had several small parts in movies, including a role as Ursula Andress in the Peter Sellers biopic *The Life and Death of Peter Sellers*.



Jade is tough as nails, but Jade, the red fox, has always had a soft spot for Swifty. After leaving town to study at a prestigious engineering school, she returns home and becomes the town's resident mechanic. Bored by the small jobs, she takes on challenging freelance work. But there's a slight problem: her mystery client proves to not only be highly intelligent—but also highly dangerous. Good thing Jade is one clever red fox.

Bertha is one of two European conspiracy theorists travel the world in search of fringe-worthy mysteries, which is how they ended up in Taigasville. They believe the remote town holds the answer to the question perplexing the world: Why has global warming spiked so suddenly and dramatically? Anti-social, paranoid and often erratic, their conclusions are a bit extreme... or are they?



Alec Baldwin (PB)

Alec Baldwin is an actor, writer, producer, comedian, political activist and the eldest—and best known— of the four Baldwin brothers. He first gained recognition starring in the TV series *Knots Landing* and has played both leading and supporting roles in films including *Beetlejuice* (1988), the action thriller *The Hunt for Red October* (1990), the romantic comedy *The Marrying Man* (1991), the drama *Glengarry Glen Ross* (1992) and two films directed by Martin Scorsese, the Howard Hughes biopic *The Aviator* (2004) and crime drama *The Departed* (2006). His performance in the 2003 romantic drama *The Cooler* garnered him an Academy Award® nomination for best supporting actor. He starred in the fifth and sixth installments of the *Mission Impossible* movie series. From 2006 to 2013 he starred as Jack Donaghy on the NBC sitcom *30 Rock*, winning two Emmy® awards, three Golden Globes® and seven Screen Actors Guild® awards. He has done extensive voice work in animation, including *The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie*, *Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa*, *Rise of the Guardians*, *Cats & Dogs*, *Boss Baby* and has earned worldwide acclaim for his portrayal of Donald Trump on *Saturday Night Live*, earning his third Primetime Emmy for the portrayal in 2017.



P.B. is Swifty's best friend, co-worker and the perfect example of a gentle giant. A lovable polar bear, he's known across the Arctic for being a big softy. P.B.'s thoughtful and cautious nature are really the polar opposite of Swifty's more impulsive, brash personality. He's always a reliable, trustworthy and honest friend to Swifty... but his loyalty is tested once things begin to go awry

Anjelica Huston (Magda)

Anjelica Huston began her career as a fashion model and started acting by taking small roles in the movies of her father, director John Huston. Her first notable part was in Bob Rafelson's remake of the classic noir film *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1981). Her father cast her as the imperious Maerose, the daughter of a Mafia don in *Prizzi's Honor* (1985) for which she won an Academy Award® for best supporting actress, making her the first person in Academy history to win an Oscar® when a parent (John Huston) and grandparent (Walter Huston) had also won Oscars®. She went on to receive further Academy Award® nominations for her performance in *Enemies: A Love Story* (1989) and *The Grifters* (1990). She has also earned BAFTA nominations for her work in two Woody Allen films, *Crimes and Misdemeanors* (1989) and *Manhattan Murder Mystery* (1993). She earned two Golden Globe® nominations for starring as Morticia Addams in *The Addams Family* and its sequel. Her prolific career includes performances in *Buffalo 66*, *Ever After*, *Blood Work*, *Daddy Day Care*, *Seraphim Falls*, *Choke*, *50/50* and *The Cleanse*. She frequently works with director Wes Anderson. Their collaborations have included *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou* and *The Darjeeling Limited*.



She's Russian, she's curmudgeonly and she's set in her ways, and oh—don't mistake her for a moose—she's a caribou! Magda is head of the ABDS and doesn't like change, partly because she's old-school and partly because she's been burned in the past, namely by Otto von Walrus whom she took a chance on (and things didn't end up so well). Since then her walls have been up higher than ever, so she won't be taking a chance on Swifty, or anyone else for that matter.

John Cleese (Otto Von Walrus)

A graduate of Cambridge University, John Cleese is an English actor, comedian, screenwriter, producer and voice actor. In the late 1960s he co-founded the beloved comedy satire troupe Monty Python and starred in the sketch TV show *Monty Python's Flying Circus* along with his Python co-stars Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones, Michael Palin and Graham Chapman. Cleese has also starred in Monty Python films *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975), *Life of Brian* (1979) and *The Meaning of Life* (1983). He co-wrote *Fawlty Towers* and starred as Basil Fawlty. He won a BAFTA for the series, which is on the British Film Institute's list of the 100 Greatest British Television Programmes. He and former Python colleague Michael Palin co-starred in 1989 in *A Fish Called Wanda* and in 1997's *Fierce Creatures*, both of which he also wrote. He received an Academy Award® nomination for best original screenplay for *A Fish Called Wanda*. He has also starred in *Time Bandits*, *Rat Race*, *Silverado*, *Mary Shelley's Frankenstein*, two James Bond films, two Harry Potter movies and lent his voice to three Shrek movies.



Where does one begin? A self-proclaimed megalomaniac genius? A vindictive, insecure, narcissistic, classic evil villain? Yes. All of the above. But at the same time he's charming, funny and irresistibly entertaining—someone you'd want to hang out with if only he weren't constantly trying to destroy the Arctic. Otto considers himself the "World's Greatest Engineer" but spent a lifetime watching his "visionary" ideas rejected. So, he vows to seek vengeance, with a bunch of puffins helping to carry out his sinister deeds.

James Franco (Lemmy)

James Franco is an actor, filmmaker and academic. His breakthrough starring role was as a 20-year old on *Freaks and Geeks* (1999), which has since become a cult hit. He got into acting to overcome shyness. Prior to joining that show, he starred in the TV miniseries *To Serve and Protect* and after that had a starring role in *Whatever It Takes*. He rose to prominence with the TNT made-for-TV movie *James Dean* (2001) in which he played the title role. Since then, he has been working non-stop. Some of his roles have been in *Spider-Man*, *Deuces Wild*, *Nights in Rodanthe*, *In the Valley of Elah*, *Pineapple Express*, *Eat, Pray, Love*, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *Oz the Great and Powerful*, *This is the End*, and *Milk*, for which he won an Independent Spirit Award for best supporting actor. He also won a Golden Globe® award for *The Disaster Artist* and was nominated for an Academy Award® for best actor for his part in *127 Hours* (2010).



Lemmy lived the rock 'n' roll lifestyle for years playing bass guitar in obscure bands, and as a roadie for more famous ones. Now he lives the simple life as a mail-stamper at the ABDS. He's spaced-out in his own universe and always in his "happy place." That is, until you mention flying. Lemmy's terrified of flying, and it's something he'll have to overcome if he's to help save the day from the dastardly Walrus.

Michael Madsen (Duke)

Michael Madsen's long career spans 25 years and more than 170 films in which he's played memorable characters in many box office hits including *Kill Bill: Volumes 1 and 2*, *Sin City*, *Hell Ride*, *Die Another Day*, *Donnie Brasco*, *Species*, *The Getaway*, *Thelma & Louise*, *Free Willy* and he is most recognized for his role as Mr. Blonde in Quentin Tarantino's *Reservoir Dogs*.



Duke is the friendly leader of the top dogs, Taigasville's biggest celebrities. The top dogs deliver life-saving goods to needy citizens, and though Duke works long, hard days, he's always sure to make time for his fans. Arctic Strong!

Laurie Holden (Dakota)

Laurie Holden is best known to audiences as Andrea in the hit AMC drama series *The Walking Dead*. Her big acting break came much earlier in her career, however, when she starred in the critically acclaimed TNT mini-series *Young Catherine*. She has also starred in the TV series *Proven Innocent*, *The Americans* and *The Shield*. Her movie roles include *Dumb and Dumber To*, *The Mist*, *Fantastic Four* and *The Majestic*. She is also a human rights activist and dedicates much of her time and effort to enriching and protecting the lives of women and children victimized by the sex trade.



The only female top dog, Dakota's not just as tough as they come, but as kind as well. While she loves delivering mail, after a freezing cold Arctic workday she dreams of retiring on a beach with coconut shell drinks, complete with tiny umbrellas.

Omar Sy (Leopold)

Omar Sy is a French actor, writer and comedian. He is best known for his roles in *The Intouchables*, *Jurassic World*, *Transformers: The Last Knight* and *X-Men: Days of Future Past*.



Leopold is one of two European conspiracy theorists travel the world in search of fringe-worthy mysteries, which is how they ended up in Taigasville. They believe the remote town holds the answer to the question perplexing the world: Why has global warming spiked so suddenly and dramatically? Anti-social, paranoid and often erratic, their conclusions are a bit extreme... or are they?

ABOUT THE MUSICIANS

Jeymes Samuel, Music Producer

Jeymes Samuel is a filmmaker, producer, singer, songwriter, and composer from the UK. Under his musical moniker 'The Bullitts', Samuel released his highly acclaimed, self-produced debut album "They Die by Dawn & Other Short Stories," featuring Yasiin Bey (aka Mos Def), Tori Amos, and Jay Electronica with narration from Lucy Liu. He was chosen by Jay Z and Baz Luhrmann to serve as the Executive Music Consultant for the Academy Award winning film, *The Great Gatsby*, whose album went on to sell over 500,000 records worldwide. Samuel is currently in pre-production on his new feature film, an epic western titled, *The Harder They Fall*. The movie boasts an entirely original soundtrack and score, entirely written and produced by Samuel.

David Buckley, Music Composer

David Buckley just finished the score for the remake of *Papillon* (starring Rami Malek and Charlie Hunnam). He also scored *Jason Bourne*, directed by Paul Greengrass and starring Matt Damon, and the Sasha Baron Cohen comedy *The Brothers Grimsby*. His previous film credits include thrillers *Trespass* and *Blood Creek*, *The Town*, *The Forbidden Kingdom* and for TV he composed the music for *The Good Wife* and is currently scoring for *The Good Fight*.

Jeremy Renner, Singer-Songwriter

As well as his stellar acting career, Renner is a singer/songwriter, guitarist, keyboardist and drummer. Early in his acting career he performed in the *Sons of Ben*. For the soundtrack of *North Country* he performed "I Drink Alone." In the 2006 film *Loves*

Comes to the Executioner and in the 2007 film *The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford*, Renner performed the songs “American Pie” and “Good Ole Rebel” respectively. He also appeared in music videos “Trouble” by Pink and “Scenes on Sunset” by Brother Sal. Renner has written 5 songs for *Arctic Dogs*.

Eric Zayne, Songwriter

Eric Zayne is a Canadian-born singer/songwriter/producer and a frequent music collaborator with Jeremy Renner. Together they have written many of the songs for *Arctic Dogs*. Zayne’s musical sound is as unique as his background. Raised in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zayne was suddenly evacuated to Montreal as a child without his family when civil war erupted in the late 1990s. As a refugee in Montreal and out of contact with his family, Eric found a way to connect through music, dedicating and teaching himself how to play multiple instruments, learning how to sing, write and produce.

ABOUT THE FILMMAKERS

Aaron Woodley, Director

Aaron Woodley’s feature debut was *Rhinoceros Eyes* starring Michael Pitt, which won the Discovery Award at the 2003 Toronto International Film Festival. His follow-up film, *Tennessee* was an indie road drama starring Mariah Carey, produced by Lee Daniels. His third film, *The Entitled*, was a thriller starring Ray Liotta and his latest project, *Spark*, is an animated stereoscopic space adventure featuring the voice talents of Hilary Swank, Jessica Biel, Susan Sarandon and Patrick Stewart.

Cal Brunker and Bob Barlen, Writers

Brunker and Barlen are the writing and creative team behind the screenplay for *Escape from Planet Earth*, *Son of Bigfoot* and *The Nut Job 2: Nutty by Nature*. Both are known internationally not only for their writing and directing credits, but for the innovation and nuance they bring to each new project they work on.

Satjit Matharu, Animation Director

Satjit worked as senior animator on Sylvain Choet’s Oscar® nominated animated feature *The Illusionist*. He was also animation supervisor on the French animated feature

Zarafa. Other credits include *Filth*, *Curious George*, *Three Wise Men*, *Eight Crazy Nights*, *Osmosis Jones*, *Nocturna* and *The Prophet*.

Andrea Iervolino, Producer

Andrea Iervolino is co-founder of the AMBI Group, a consortium of vertically integrated film development, production, finance and distribution companies owned and operated by Andrea and Monika Bacardi. Since the age of 16, Iervolino has produced, financed and distributed over 50 films. Prior to co-founding AMBI in 2013, he earned multiple production credits including, *The Merchant of Venice*, starring Al Pacino and *Machete*, starring Robert De Niro.

Of Italian-Canadian decent, Andrea began producing films with powerful social issues for the Cineschool Day initiative, for which former Italian Prime Minister and Senator for Life, Giulio Andreotti, was a spokesperson. Multi-awarded, Andrea's most recent accolade is the Honor of Recognition as Ambassador of Italian Cinema in the World at the 2015 Italian Contemporary Film Festival (ICFF). At the 2014 Venice Film Festival he was presented with the coveted Mimmo Rotella Award for Best Producer, for his contributions to the Italian Cinema Industry.

Monika Bacardi, Producer

A successful businesswoman and entrepreneur, patron of the arts, philanthropist and humanitarian, Lady Monika Bacardi is the co-founder, with producer Andrea Iervolino, of the multi-national AMBI Group, a consortium of vertically integrated film development, production, finance and distribution companies. AMBI's production slate includes such titles as *Septembers of Shiraz*, starring Salma Hayek and Adrien Brody, *This Beautiful Fantastic*, starring Jessica Brown Findlay and Tom Wilkinson, the romantic comedy *All Roads Lead to Rome*, starring Sarah Jessica Parker and an homage to Federico Fellini's classic *La Dolce Vita*. Venturing into animation, *Arctic Dogs* is one of AMBI's biggest projects to date.

Graham Moloy, Producer

Graham Moloy began his career at Pixar Animation Studios working on such acclaimed films as *A Bug's Life*, *Toy Story 2*, *Monsters Inc.* and *Finding Nemo*. From there he worked for a number of studios such as C.O.R.E. Feature Animation (Disney's *The Wild*, *Silent Hill*) Starz Animation (*Pirates Who Don't Do Anything*, *Ormie and 9*). Graham's latest producing effort was on *The Nut Job*.

Byron Allen, Executive Producer

As Founder, Chairman and CEO of Entertainment Studios, a company the comedian/producer/media mogul created in 1993, Allen now owns one of the largest television portfolios in the industry, featuring ten 24-hour HD networks, including The Weather Channel. The company produces and distributes Emmy® award winning programs, while also selling advertising for 64 broadcast and cable TV shows. Entertainment Studios has one of the world's largest libraries of family and advertiser friendly lifestyle content. Further distinguishing Entertainment Studios is its status as the first African-American owned multi-platform media studio producing and distributing wide-release movies and content for all platforms. In 2015 Allen purchased Freestyle Releasing, now called Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures, a full-service theatrical distribution company.

Allen's interest in show business began in childhood, when he would accompany his mother to NBC studios in Burbank where she worked as a publicist. He would sneak onto *The Tonight Show* set, sit behind Johnny Carson's desk and play talk show host. At age 14 he put together his first stand-up comedy routine and began appearing in comedy clubs across L.A., and drew the attention of comedian Jimmie Walker, who invited him to join his comedy writing team, which included David Letterman and Jay Leno. At age 18, Allen made his national debut on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson*, becoming the youngest standup comedian ever to appear on the show. Shortly thereafter he was chosen to be one of the co-hosts of NBC's *Real People*, the first reality-based program ever broadcast on television. He is also very involved in charitable causes including Children's Hospital Los Angeles and A Place Called Home.

About AMBI Media Group

AMBI Media Group is a consortium of vertically integrated film development, production, finance and distribution companies wholly owned and operated by Andrea Iervolino and Monika Gomez del Campo Bacardi, Lady of Bayfield Hall, better known as Monika Bacardi. Among the films on AMBI's burgeoning film slate are the Lamborghini biopic *Lamborghini: The Legend* starring Antonio Banderas and Alec Baldwin, the revenge thriller *Bent* from Academy Award winner Bobby Moresco starring Karl Urban, Sofia Vergara and Andy Garcia, the heist movie *Finding Steve McQueen* starring Forest Whitaker and William Fichtner and directed by Mark Steven Johnson, the Andrea Bocelli biopic *The Music of Silence*, directed by Oscar nominated Michael Radford, James Franco's post-apocalyptic thriller *Future World*, starring Milla Jovovich, Lucy Liu and Snoop Dogg, the psychological thriller *Black Butterfly* starring Antonio Banderas and Jonathan Rhys Meyers, the sci-fi thriller *Rupture* starring Noomi Rapace, Michael

Chiklis and Peter Stormare and the faith-based children's film *Beyond the Sun*, featuring His Holiness Pope Francis.

For more information, please visit: www.ambidistribution.com

About AIC Studios

AIC Studios is the newest film studio in Toronto. AIC specializes in VFX and animation, blending innovative technology with inspired artists and producers. The studio is part of AMBI Media Group which vertically integrates the finance, production, post-production and distribution of feature films, television programs and animated series.

About Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures

Entertainment Studios Motion Pictures is a full-service, theatrical motion picture distribution company specializing in wide release commercial content. ESMP released 2017's highest-grossing independent movie, the shark thriller *47 Meters Down*, which grossed over \$44.3 million at the domestic box office and inspired the 2019 sequel, *47 Meters Down: Uncaged*. In 2018, ESMP released the critically acclaimed and commercially successful Western, *Hostiles* and the historic mystery-thriller, *Chappaquiddick*. Upcoming releases include *Arctic Dogs* and *All Rise*, based on the best-selling and critically acclaimed novel, "Monster" by Walter Dean Myers. The film stars Kelvin Harrison, Jr., Academy Award® winner Jennifer Hudson, Golden Globe® winner Jeffrey Wright, Jennifer Ehle, A\$AP Rocky, Nas, Tim Blake Nelson and Golden Globe® nominee John David Washington.

For more information, please visit: www.entertainmentstudios.com

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